

Application No. 09/993,866
Amendment Dated September 22, 2005
Reply to the Office Action of June 24, 2005

Remarks/Arguments

Specification has not been amended. Drawings have not been amended. No new claims have been added. Claims 4, 5, 9, 15, and 19 have been cancelled. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-14, 16-18 are amended and remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Interview with the Examiner

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Ms. Good-Johnson and her supervisor Ms. Sumati Lefkowitz for their time and input during our telephone discussion of the subject matter on Monday 08/29/2005. Per the Examiner suggestions, some of the allowed claims were incorporated into the base claims and the intervening claims were adjusted accordingly to depend on new base claims. Details of the claim amendments are described later in this response. Applicants believe that the amended claims address the Examiner's concern, adopt Examiner's suggestions, recite the novel features of the invention, are distinguished over the prior art and are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 8-10, 14-15 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chung, US Patent Number 6,101,493. The Examiner further objected to Claims 5-7, 11-13, 16 and 17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Chung discloses a method for displaying items in a menu. A graphical indicator may be used to indicate that additional items are present for viewing, but are currently not displayed. By depressing a mouse button, the items may scroll across the menu such that new items are displayed when currently displayed items are moved off the menu. The scrolling may be done in a circular fashion in which items repeat rather than having the scrolling stop when reaching an end of the list (see Chung col. 4, lines 12-34 and Figures 3, 4A & 4B). This is very different from Applicants' claimed invention, which provides a method and system for displaying a very large amount of data, which reside in a database, in a limited display area (e.g. a list box) so that the contents of all data can be recognized and data transmission load can be reduced. The all-inclusive view of the target data in a limited display area and reduction of data transmission load is made possible with the aid of visual displays called "predetermined displays" or "predetermined icons", which are displayed in place of those data that are not retrieved and are not displayed in the limited display area.

Although one may see some basic similarities between Chung and Applicant's invention, deep down study of the two inventions reveals otherwise. Unlike Chung's limited number of menu items, Applicant's very large target data, which is stored in a database is read and displayed in chunks in a limited display area when necessary. The chunks that are displayed (i.e. data sets) and the chunks that are not displayed (i.e. data groups) are determined through an abridgement process using total number of target data, the number of data rows that can be displayed in the limited display area and other parameters. Unlike Chung, Applicant's invention does not display the data in a circular scrollable fashion. Unlike Chung's cosmetic graphical indicators, Applicant's predetermined icons are selectable and when selected cause more data to be read and displayed in the same limited display area. As the Examiner noted, unlike Chung's graphical indicators,

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Applicant's predetermined icons are correlated with the first data rows and the number of data rows of data groups. Unlike Chung's menu items, Applicant's target data may reside remotely on a server computer different from the data display computer communicating over the network. Unlike Chung's menu items, selecting one or more of Applicant's displayed data rows initiates a data entry operation.

In view of the above distinguishing features of the Applicant's invention over the prior art and based on the suggestions of the Examiner, claims are amended as follows:

Claim 1 is amended by incorporating features of the invention, which previously were claimed in Claims 4 & 5. These features include: selection of one or more predetermined icons causing additional data to be read from the database and displayed in the same limited display area; and the fact that predetermined icons are correlated with the first data row and the number of data rows in data groups that are not displayed. Claim 2 is left as previously presented, which continues to depend on amended Claim 1. Claim 3 is amended to depend on amended Claim 1 instead. Claims 4 & 5 are canceled since their claimed features were incorporated into amended Claim 1. Claims 6 & 7 are amended to depend on amended Claim 1. Claim 8 is amended by incorporating features of the invention, which previously were claimed in Claim 9. These features include: selection of one or more predetermined icons causing additional data to be read from the database and displayed in the same limited display area and identifying data groups that are not displayed. Claim 9 is canceled since its claimed features were incorporated into the amended Claim 8. Claims 10, 11 & 12 are amended to depend on amended Claim 8. Claim 13 is left as original claim. Claim 14 is amended by incorporating features of the invention, which previously were claimed in Claim 15. These features

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include: means for selection of one or more predetermined icons causing additional data to be read from the database and displayed in the same limited display area and means for identifying data groups that are not displayed. Claim 15 is canceled since its claimed features were incorporated into the amended Claim 14. Claims 16 & 17 are amended to depend on amended Claim 14. Claim 18 is amended by incorporating features of the invention, which previously were claimed in Claim 19. These features include: an article of manufacture for selection of one or more predetermined icons causing additional data to be read from the database and displayed in the same limited display area and for identifying data groups that are not displayed. Claim 19 is canceled since its claimed features were incorporated into the amended Claim 18. Applicants believe that the amended claims address the Examiner's concern, adopt Examiner's suggestions, recite the novel and distinguishing features of the invention and are now in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

Applicants have amended the Claims to adopt Examiner's suggestions and clearly distinguish over all known prior arts including Chung. As explained in Applicant's response and as noted by the Examiner, despite some similarities, Chung fails to teach many novel features of the present invention. In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all currently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Final Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Response is hereby solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Seiji Hamada et al.

By:

Farrokh E. Pournirzaic, Reg. No. 45,297
Agent for Applicants

International Business Machines Corporation
Intellectual Property Law
555 Bailey Avenue, J46A/G462
San Jose, CA 95141-9989
Telephone: (408) 463-3539

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